

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

With the present Amendment and Response, Applicant has amended the specification at page 5, line 4-6 to provide the serial No. (10/706,412) and filing date, November 12, 2003, of co-pending application for United States patent, serial No. (attorney docket CCP 2-046).

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 1-25.

The Examiner has noted that Applicant did not file an information disclosure statement listing the patents set forth in the background of the above-identified application. Those patents are intended to demonstrate the enormous inventive contributions of C.C. Petersen and are not considered by Applicant to be material, either alone or in combination, to the patentability of the claimed invention.

Applicant did, however, submit an information disclosure statement on March 30, 2004. That information disclosure statement lists references cited in an International Search Report mailed March 19, 2004 in connection with a PCT application directed to the present invention. Because that Information Disclosure Statement was submitted prior to the April 15, 2004 mailing of the first Office action on the merits, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), Applicant requests that the Examiner make those references of record as having been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 13 May 2004

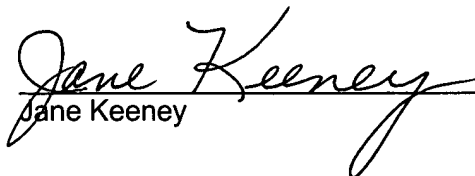
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Appln. No. 10/712,675
Amendment dated May 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 15, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on May 13, 2004 with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Commissioner for Patents
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Jane Keeney